

Mrs. Essie Crawford
Gunn, Alberta.

FLYING COLIN CALDWELL

LACOMBE MAN MADE CHIEF "BIG EAGLE", Oct. 17/25.

Colin S. Caldwell, for many years a resident of this district, has just returned from an aerial prospecting trip in the northern part of British Columbia and is visiting his many friends before leaving for Montreal.

Mr. Caldwell shipped his Vickers Viking plane to Prince Rupert earlier in the summer and operated from that point into the virgin districts of northern British Columbia and gathered some new data for his employers. He discovered some very fertile valleys 1,000 miles north of Vancouver in the 60th parallel. They abounded in vegetation and floral shrubbery. He found the Indians in a very happy mood.

Mr. Caldwell made a landing in the tropical valley and the Indians were awaiting the arrival of the steamer. They were anxious to know when the boat would arrive and Mr. Caldwell told them the boat would arrive next day at noon. The boat arrived according to Caldwell's prediction, at high noon the next day, and the Indians held a consultation and gave him the Indian title of "Big Eagle" in honor of one of their dead chiefs. They gave him a banquet made up of the products of their own agricultural efforts and Caldwell reports that it was a great feast.

His Vickers plane was equipped with a 450-horse power Napier Lion engine, and he says that it behaved splendidly. He was accompanied on the trip by Colonel Scott Williams, of Three Rivers, Quebec, and Archibald Little, of Detroit.

CAPT. COLIN CALDWELL AND THE AIR MAIL

Cornwall, Jan. 14: Today at 1.45 o'clock, J.E. Duquette, proprietor of the King George Hotel, here and of the Algonquin, Stanley Island, had the honor of being the first man in Cornwall to receive mail from an outside point by the air route.

The plane left Three Rivers at 12:30 o'clock, and reached here at 1.40, or one hour and ten minutes for the flight of approximately 212 miles. The plane had to slow down at Summerstown to drop mail at the home of Mr. Hall at that place, so that the long flight in almost zero weather is considered to have been made in remarkably good time.

The arrival of the airplane had been noised about town and when the flying party went over the King George Hotel, they were greeted with a boom from a couple of cannon crackers. In the plane were Thomas Hall, Colonel Williams, Captain Wilshire, Mr. Leopold and Pilot Captain Caldwell. As the party went over the corner of Pitt and Second streets a packet with long tails flying was seen to descend from the plane, and it landed on the road near the post office, right opposite the King George Hotel. The little bag was taken into the hotel and Mr. Duquette opened it, and read the letter to the interested group who had witnessed the arrival of the first air mail service in Cornwall. The envelope which contained the letter bore the following stamp, "Air Mail, Three Rivers, Cornwall, first winter flight, 1925, Laurentide Air Service."

The plane did not stop, here but continued on its flight to the gold fields of Lardner Lake, Ont.

A PIONEER AIRMAN

I read with interest of the development of the Great Bear lake mineral field and the many honors bestowed on the gallant airmen of our northland, especially "Punch" Dickins, in "list of great Canadians". This brings to remembrance one of Canada's pioneer airmen, the late Colin Spencer Caldwell. In the spring of 1926 he made a flight into the Barren Lands with a Vickers amphibian machine. I quote from Maclean's Magazine, April 1, 1927:

"No maps exist of this area and we were able to determine our position only from the sun and the stars. We passed over literally hundreds of lakes and rivers that are as yet uncharted, and in flying from one cache to another these were our only guides."

A British aviation magazine stated that was an outstanding feature in aviation for 1926.

And would it be amiss for me to offer a suggestion, i.e., that one of these uncharted lakes or a landing field be named in memory of one of Canada's pioneer airmen, Pilot Caldwell.

--An Old-Timer.

LACOMBE AVIATOR IN GOLD STAMPEDE

C.B. Caldwell on a Gold Prospecting Plane for
Cassiar, B.C.

Prince Rupert, B.C., June 4: Colonel J.S. Williams,

piloted the gold prospecting aeroplane on the second hop of its journey into the Cassiar district on Tuesday and arrived at Telegraph Creek from Wrangell, Alaska, safely with C.B. Caldwell, of Lacombe, Alta., and Archibald Little, Detroit mining engineer. Number one base of the expedition has been established at Telegraph Creek and as the first rush of prospectors has been delayed there by ice on Dease Lake, the air party seem assured of a good lead in the race for early locations.

LACOMBE BOY

Lacombe, Alta., June 4: Colin Caldwell, one of Canada's best known flying men is a Lacombe boy, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Caldwell are farming west of Lacombe.

After finishing his education at the Lacombe high school he worked in the Empire garage for nearly three years; in 1916 he joined up with the Royal Flying Corps and as one of the best mechanics was kept at the base in the repair department.

Three years ago he was appointed flying man for the Laurentide Air service, Three Rivers, Que., and was kept busy on surveys of the forest lands in northern Quebec and Ontario and also piloted a regular air service for the gold fields of northern Ontario. Mr. Caldwell was in Lacombe a few days ago, visiting his parents and friends

Crawford

Flying Caldwell -5

on his way to the Cassiar, B.C. gold fields. His flying machine was sent on ahead of him by freight, from the east.

WILL HUNT SEALS BY

AEROPLANE OFF COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND

The Montreal Daily Star of March 20th contains an article illustrated with pictures of a seal hunt in Newfoundland being conducted by Colin S. Caldwell, of Lacombe, Alta., and has the following to say of that pilot:

"C.S. Caldwell, widely known Canadian aviator, who in the summer of 1924 flew scores of passengers over unsurveyed Ontario and Quebec, and who last summer piloted a Vickers plane with 450 horse power Napier Lion engine for a Detroit prospecting syndicate, over unexplored Northern British Columbia and the Yukon, has left for Newfoundland to accompany the sealing fleet in its annual expedition. This will make Mr. Caldwell's second flight to the northern sealing grounds, and the fourth occasion on which flying craft has been used in the seal hunt. So valuable did the use of the plane prove under Mr. Caldwell's piloting last year that the Newfoundland government and the sealing operators have secured his services again this year." Mr. Caldwell is a son of Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Caldwell of Lacombe, and a brother of Mrs. Geo. M. Crawford of Peace River.

BIPLANE BEING USED FOR PROSPECTING
IN LAKE ATHABASKA AREA, 1926.

Members of Northern Syndicate Have Transferred Their Activities. Expect to Find Silver Deposits. Fort Fitzgerald Field is Quite Inactive at the Present Time.

The scene of greatest prospecting activity in the north is now shifting from the Fort Fitzgerald to that territory lying north of Lake Athabaska about midway between Chipewyan and Fond du Lac, according to Fred Saunders, trapper of Chipewyan, who is now in the city.

Mr. Saunders told the Journal that several parties are now prospecting the district lying north of the lake, included in the number being Messrs. Caldwell, Merkle, Dunn and Vachan of the northern syndicate, who established a base of operations near the old cannery, and are using the large Vickers biplane recently flown into the country to cruise around in.

The opinion seems to be quite general that the new district will be found to be rich in platinum, silver and gold, the formation of the country being very similar to that in the Fitzgerald field, Mr. Saunders stated. Government surveyors are now busily engaged in completing topographical maps of the district in preparation for a rush of prospectors into this territory, which is expected to follow the reports of the surveyors and the northern syndicate men.

At the present time there is little activity in the Fort Fitzgerald field, although it is expected that this

Crawford

160
Flying Caldwell -7

may be renewed later in the season. At the present time, however, interest is centring in the new field.

Mr. Saunders, who has been trapping in that district for the last five years is now fitting out in the city prior to returning to Chipewyan.

(Newspaper clippings)